

EL PASO HERALD

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Postoffice and Sunday Closing

THE agitation of the clerks in the postoffice for closing on Sundays comes from people who are worked hard seven days in the week at present and to whom a day of rest once in seven would be deserved and no doubt most acceptable, but there are several considerations to be met. Mail arrives and departs on Sundays and it must be taken care of some time. The clerks and carriers say that a part of their force would be kept on duty each Sunday and that this force would keep the mail going and that very little if any delay would be experienced in its proper dispatch.

The request of the clerks and carriers for Sunday closing has the backing of many church people and of the labor unions. A straw vote of the city is to be taken by those interested and it is found that a majority of the people favor the move, this will probably serve largely to induce the department to grant the request. In several cities Sunday closing has already been ordered. There have been no complaints from the subscribers, so far as The Herald has heard. If the people, who are the patrons and owners of the postoffice as it were—employees of the postoffice being the servants of the public—are willing to have the office closed on Sundays, then it should be closed. Every person who can get his rest on Sundays, for rest's sake alone, to say nothing of the freedom it gives those who wish to attend divine services, ought to have it, whether government or private employees. On the whole, the postoffice employees probably do not work as long hours as most people in private life on a similar salary, for their hours are regulated by statute and are fixed at eight per day, yet they are entitled to their Sunday rest.

The Herald has quoted the Denver Post as stating that the clerks and carriers in that office were not satisfied at all with the Sunday closing movement, because it made more work for them on Mondays—more mail to distribute and extra loads to deliver. The El Paso carriers say they are willing to chance this and declare that very little mail is called for on Sundays anyhow and that they can easily distribute it all on their routes on Monday.

Paul Walter, editor of the Santa Fe New Mexican, postmaster at Santa Fe for eight years, discusses the subject and says:

"The distributing clerk would have to be on duty the same as now, because the Sunday closing movement does not affect those who rent postoffice boxes. Mails must be dispatched and distributed the same as on any other day. The public, however, would be deprived of the convenience of going to the window for one hour on Sunday and getting its mail and the clerks and carriers would not be helped much if any. In fact, the carriers find that their mail which patrons usually took out on Sunday will have to be carried to them on Monday. The mail will not permit them to work more than eight hours a day, and part of the mails which arrived on Saturday after the carrier has gone on his last trip, will probably not be delivered until Tuesday or Wednesday, an arrangement satisfactory neither to patron nor to carrier. Similarly, at the general delivery window. On Monday morning the clerk at that window finds himself so overwhelmed with mail, the accumulation of two days, that he is apt to make annoying mistakes and it will be 'Blue' Monday in fact for him. Close the postoffice on Sunday by all means, but do not imagine that the letter carriers and postal clerks are helped thereby to any appreciable extent, for letters come and go on Sunday the same as any other day and must be handled as they are received."

The race track men will leave us after this week. Then watch business pick up in El Paso.

There is an old saying that an evil mind always thinks evil of others. It would hardly be right to say that this is called to mind by reading the aspersions cast by the Santa Fe New Mexican on the revolutionary news from Mexico, for the editor of a ring organ, whose first thought is "what will the gang think of it," rather than "shall the public be told," just naturally can't help being suspicious of everything he sees in print elsewhere. If the editor thinks he knows more about it than the man on the scene, he might make the longest trip of his life and come down and see for himself. He would find that some of the insurgents that he calls "half naked hobs" would be considered mighty good voters if his crowd had them up at Santa Fe or Taos.

Mr. Oppers' Muttonhead Club

THE New York American cartoons a "banquet of the Muttonhead Club," at which the honored guest is "the man who does not think this country ought to be prepared for a war with Japan."

Among the members present, according to Mr. Oppers' drawing, are "the citizen who failed to register," "the man who lives beyond his income," "the man who thinks this country does not need an army," "the man who thinks this country does not need a navy," "the man who thinks this country does not need any fortifications," Dr. Cook, Frank Hitchcock, Joe Cannon and Joe Bailey.

If Mr. Oppers had been applying it to El Paso, he might have added "the man who does not sign up for street paving," "the man who says there is no insurrection in Mexico," "the man who says El Paso politics is not controlled by a ring," "the man who hasn't sense enough to buy valley land," "the man who believes there was a battle at Chocolate Pass," "the man who believes a Mexican official dispatch," and "the man who doesn't know that El Paso is the finest place in the world."

One of the fairest articles yet printed in a magazine on the situation in Mexico is Arthur Ruhl's story from Mexico City, in Collier's. It is fair to both sides and has less misinformation in it than any such article that has yet appeared in print. Mr. Ruhl got a wonderful grasp of the situation in a short time.

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch is campaigning against the smokestacks. El Paso will take a few that St. Louis doesn't want, but we want them to be rising above a factory, not a Chinese restaurant.

It is useless to remark that the terrible loss of life in that New York factory fire should serve as a warning to building inspectors and municipal officials of the dangerous condition of other buildings in that great city. The officials must have personal knowledge of these things and it is only criminal negligence that permits them to exist. In such accidents as the one in which over a hundred poor girls met death, the officials who permitted the violations of the law are equally guilty, morally, with the owners of the place. And New York is not the only city where building laws are violated and dangerous structures are allowed to stand. We could come much closer home and find similar conditions on a smaller scale.

Armored airships are now planned. Next in line is for somebody to invent a pneumatic device to upset them in the air.

UNCLE WALT'S Denatured Poem

A DOLLAR will do more good to a man who is down and out than the grandest platitude that a generous man can spout. The world beaten sport comes by, and says he is out of luck, and hands me a soulful sigh, and asks for a silver buck. And O, how I like to preach, before I hand out the cash, to show that I am a peach at making a moral hash! Of prospects I have a store, of maxims and helpful saws; I pass them along till sore and sprained are my joyous jaws. I'd rather give good advice than go to a game of ball, or swallow a lemon ice, or play with a rubber doll. I'd rather wind up my tongue, and then let the same run down, than dance with the daintiest girl graduate in the town. And so when I meet a gent who's needing a shirt and tie, I hand him a Lincoln cent, and preach for a while. I've platitudes by the peck, and ois that will quiet strife; I'm loaded clear to the neck with lessons and rules of life. I've bandages, salves and splints for morals that lunely go; I'd rather give helpful hints than go to a minstrel show.

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Range and Papatua

A Maori Legend.

LONG, very long ago the god Range, the sky, and the goddess Papatua, the earth, loved one another with a deep and sincere love. Their union was so perfect that it was barely possible for the light of day to come between them. No tall majestic tree could grow in the forest, no flower could open its petals—only the vines and creepers spread along the surface of the earth.

The earth had then no other inhabitants than the children of the Range and Papatua. When the children began to grow up they suffered from the lack of space and light and wanted to see their father and mother to a higher altitude so that they might get more room and light. But they refused to listen to them, saying that never would be separated from his beloved wife Papatua, the earth.

When the children found that their words were of no avail, they met and asked each other:

"What are we going to do?"

The god of war, who was cruel and knew no feeling of filial love, exclaimed: "Let us kill them." But this proposal did not appeal to the others, though all agreed they must be separated.

So Tane, the god of light and the father of the forests, who wanted to see the trees raise their heads, and birds and insects multiply, proposed that he should try to lift Range, the sky, that the light of day might brighten all.

Then Papatua cried: "No, I will follow my husband." And she called upon Tane to abandon his plan. First Tane refused. He sat down upon his mother who from that time became motionless, and sitting on her he kicked his father away with such force that he was raised up and has remained there ever since.

Range and Papatua cried and sighed, and their complaints were heart-rending to hear.

"Tane, the father of the winds," flew up towards heaven to console his father and remain with him.

Then Papatua, the earth, was flooded with light and new creatures sprang from her lap, and plants and trees began to grow.

Sometimes Tane and his children descended from above and attacked Tane, trying to destroy him and his offspring. But Tane transformed some of his children into birds, others into fishes, which the earth concealed in her bosom, but this did not keep Tane from finding and eating some of them. This is the reason why men, when they ate each other, said to excuse their behavior.

"Have not the gods themselves set us an example?"

In the meantime Tane, the powerful god of light, continued to beat and enrich his mother, the earth. He

covered her with plants and flowering shrubs, and gave her song birds and butterflies and all kinds of marvelous things.

He was not yet quite satisfied with his work. He wanted to plant majestic trees. Now the first trees resembled human beings and Tane thought their heads to be roots and planted their heads in the ground. Thus planted they were strange to look upon and could not grow. Then Tane recognized his mistake; he turned them the other way and the trees grew way up into the air and sent out branches and leaves in all directions. The women form the bulk of the population. Some estimate that the proportion of women to men is five to one, because of the wars that have taken place in the past and the number of men who wear bright red or yellow silk handkerchiefs wound coquettishly around the head. Some of the older women wear a head dress called the huipil, a white linen affair which is sometimes worn as an exaggerated Elizabethan ruff. At other times it is worn in such a way that it gives the wearer the appearance of being arrayed in the bonnet and plume of an American Indian chief.

The time to see the Tehuantepec women at their best is upon a feast day. At such times they tog themselves in fineries of such striking hues as to shame a Mexican rainbow. Their favorite jewelry is a chain of five or ten dollar gold pieces, and the possession of one of these chains is sufficient evidence of thriftiness to pass them into the best society of the city. Every American writer who visits Mexico endeavors to go to Tehuantepec. Last year, the government entertained a body of American newspaper men here. A special party was given in their honor and some of the best writers from Washington, New York and other cities.

Men Shun Work.

The principal trait of the men of Tehuantepec is their determination not to be seen at work. They go out into the country, grow their little patch of corn, and then gather it. It then devolves upon the women to market the produce and to manage the finances of the home. In this quaint old Indian city there lives a venerable Canadian by the name of Woolrich, who has been here for 53 years. He is the son of an American resident in southern Mexico and one of the characters of the country. He tells many interesting stories illustrative of the habits and manners of these people and says the advent of the Tehuantepec railroad has served to take away much of the picturesque quality of the city. Upon one occasion he wished to have some soldering done, and asked the silversmith of the community to execute the work for him. The artisan said he would do the work but would be unable to

money and producing weeps where I had thought to bring joy.

"I wondered if my wife would ever forgive me," he said, suddenly, one night, the storm burst and broke, and I found out that she had been having a perfectly lovely time, crying over her ring as the proof positive that I loved her so much that I was willing to ruin myself and impoverish the family just to gratify her whim.

"She thought I had done a most idiotic thing, but she wouldn't have had me not do it for the world."

"Can you beat that?"

Mexico Speaks 63 Languages; Fifty-two of Them By Indians

Of All the Indians of Mexico the Zapotecs Are the Most Interesting.

The Tribe of Juarez.

THE Zapotec Indians are among the most interesting of all the tribes in Mexico. They have given to the country some of its best leaders. Benito Juarez, called by some the Abraham Lincoln of Mexico, was a full blooded Zapotec. His mother was closely related to the Zapotecs, his mother having been the child of a Spanish father and a pure bred Mixtec Indian mother. The Mixtecs belong to the same general family, and live in the same territory. The city of Tehuantepec, peopled almost entirely by Zapotec Indians, is one of the most remarkable and picturesque communities in the entire republic. The women form the bulk of the population. Some estimate that the proportion of women to men is five to one, because of the wars that have taken place in the past and the number of men who wear bright red or yellow silk handkerchiefs wound coquettishly around the head. Some of the older women wear a head dress called the huipil, a white linen affair which is sometimes worn as an exaggerated Elizabethan ruff. At other times it is worn in such a way that it gives the wearer the appearance of being arrayed in the bonnet and plume of an American Indian chief.

Fond of Gay Colors.

The upper part of their costume is an oriental looking jacket, cut very low at the neck and with short sleeves. It is usually made of polka dot goods, with dots as large as an American quarter. The skirt is a replica of the Malay sarong, and consists of a loop of cloth several yards long bordered at the hem, brought snugly around the hips and tucked in at the waist line. They wear bright red or yellow silk handkerchiefs wound coquettishly around the head. Some of the older women wear a head dress called the huipil, a white linen affair which is sometimes worn as an exaggerated Elizabethan ruff. At other times it is worn in such a way that it gives the wearer the appearance of being arrayed in the bonnet and plume of an American Indian chief.

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